

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RESOURCES HEREBY GIVES NOTICE OF A GENERAL HEARING, in response to the receipt of a PETITION FOR RELIEF PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 94A, Section 12 ("Petition"). Section 12 requires the Commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources ("Commissioner") to hold a public hearing as a part of an examination and investigation as to whether the milk price to the producer can be maintained to insure an adequate supply of fresh, pure milk sufficient to meet the requirements of the Commonwealth and to protect the public health. If such price cannot be maintained, the Commissioner may declare a state of emergency whereupon he is authorized to issue orders, rules, and regulations, including the establishment of minimum wholesale prices, retail prices, or both.

All persons desiring to provide oral testimony on the Petition are notified to appear upon the following dates and times at the respective designated locations: March 16, 2007, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Campus Center Auditorium; March 20, 2007, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Faneuil Hall, Congress Street, Boston, MA.

The full text of the petition is available at "<http://www.mass.gov/agr/dairy/docs/Petition.pdf>" and is available upon request to the Commissioner. In addition to oral testimony, written comments will be accepted at the hearings. DAR will continue to accept written comments until 4:00 p.m. on March 29, 2007. Written comments should be addressed to Scott Soares, Department of Agricultural Resources, 251 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114.

By: Scott Soares, Acting Commissioner.